

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 517

SENATE BILL NO. 2157

By Burks

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2125

By Winningham, Sherry Jones

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to alternative schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-520(a)(2), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (Q):

(Q) Alternative schools remands.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 34, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

§ 49-6-3405. (a) Each LEA shall track the operation and performance of alternative school programs operated by the LEA or contractually operated for the LEA. LEAs shall measure and report to the Department of Education alternative school success through academic indicators and behavior indicators. Academic indicators shall include, but not be limited to, grade point averages or other student academic performance measures, performance on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP), performance on the Gateway tests, attendance, dropout rates, and graduation rates, for students in alternative schools or who have been in alternative schools. Behavioral indicators shall include, but not be limited to, disciplinary reports and subsequent remands to alternative schools. The Department of Education shall provide guidance in the reporting of the required data.

(b) The State Board of Education shall seek to improve performance of alternative school programs by promulgating or revising rules and regulations requiring greater accountability by the Department of Education and LEAs for outcomes of students served by alternative schools.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-211(a), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (9):

(9) Alternative school performance indicators as reported to the department by LEAs pursuant to § 49-6-3405.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3402, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (h):

(h) (1) LEAs establishing alternative schools or contracting for the operation of alternative schools shall develop and implement formal transition plans for the integration of students from regular schools to alternative schools and from alternative schools to regular schools. Such plans shall be targeted to improve communication between regular and alternative school staff, provide professional development opportunities shared by regular school staff and alternative school staff, align curriculums between regular schools and alternative schools, develop quality in-take procedures for students returning to regular school and provide student follow-up upon return to regular school.

(2) The State Board of Education shall adopt policies or guidelines to assist LEAs in developing transition plans.

SECTION 5. The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: June 7, 2007


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 25th day of June 2007


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR

